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May 25, 1964

Dr. Alvin M. Weinberg  
Oak Ridge National Laboratory  
Post Office Box X  
Oak Ridge, Tennessee 37831

Dear Alvin:

You would be lucky indeed to get Henry Kaplan, but I don't think you will unless it is in reaction to some frustration about town-and-gown or similar nonsense here. And I wouldn't even encourage you to make a meaningless effort, since he is already valued at the utmost, and his luster and leverage here could not be augmented.

In many ways, though, he would be just the person you are looking for. He has a fierce dedication both to science and medicine of radiology, a good sense of quality in choosing people, and in inspiring them, and of course a unique record of research performance both in basic science and in radiotherapy. The only thing that might be held against him is his intelligence, frankness and impatience: he does not suffer fools gladly, and fools may have to be dealt with in this kind of position. This likelihood makes me doubt he would be interested. If I am wrong and he could count on concentrating on scientific leadership, you would want to give him even higher priority, and he might be attracted.

We have faced a similar problem here in our thinking about Biophysics (which has not materialized especially) and there are two people who come to mind for serious consideration: Britton Chance and Bob Sinsheimer. Britt has perhaps had the opportunity and not fully exercised it to develop a strong department as well as implement his own talents, but he still ranks very high in my own thinking. Bob has more imagination to match Britt's precision, but he lacks none of the qualities needed for the post.

This may be a distraction from your query. In any case I would urge you to consult Henry for his views on possible candidates. Of the three names I have mentioned, my choice would depend mainly on the details of the job requirements.

Sincerely yours,

Joshua Lederberg  
Professor of Genetics

Kaplan, H.S.